



B J Walker, Commissioner

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**STATE PLAN
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FACT SHEET
2004-2005**

The Department of Human Resources will provide assistance through four (4) program elements:

- (1) Regular Energy Assistance Program
- (2) Crisis Intervention Assistance
- (3) Cooling Assistance Program
- (4) Weatherization Element

The **Regular Energy Assistance Program** will provide financial assistance on behalf of and to households meeting three requirements:

- (1) Income at or below 150% of the poverty level for Georgia:

One-Person Household	\$13,965
Two-Person Household	18,735
Three-Person Household	23,505
Four-Person Household	28,275
Five-Person Household	33,045
Six-Person Household	37,815
Seven-Person Household	42,585
Eight-Person Household	47,355

**For households with nine or more persons, add \$4,770.00 for each additional family member.*

- (2) Responsibility for paying the cost of energy for the **primary** home heating source.
- (3) U.S. citizenship or legally admitted alien.

This financial assistance will be primarily in the form of locally issued checks to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households. The amount of assistance to both homeowners and non-subsidized renters who receive a bill for their fuel cost will depend on the projected total gross annual household income, household size and payment schedule or increased cost of home heating energy. Subsidized housing tenants whose fuel cost is included in their rental payment are ineligible to receive assistance. These households are considered to be the least vulnerable for home energy assistance.

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The Regular Energy Assistance element benefits will range from \$174 to \$220 and are projected to average approximately \$216 for a one-time benefit payment to approximately 63,000 low-income households. The program will begin application intake on November 1, 2004 to serve only those households that meet the definition of Homebound or Elderly. The general public cannot apply until December 1, 2004.

The program is scheduled to operate until April 29, 2005, or until all funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

Crisis Intervention Assistance is provided to eligible households within 48 hours after an eligible household applies and within 18 hours in a life-threatening situation. The applications for assistance are taken at accessible locations statewide, and in the homes of those who are homebound and unable to travel to any of the sites. The opening of the Energy Crisis Intervention Program is determined by severe and unusual weather-related conditions, or crisis situations that result in the loss of or potential loss of fuel services. The Governor, or his/her appointee, or the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services declares all weather related crisis.

The State set aside \$300,000 until March 15, 2005, specifically for Energy Crisis Intervention. Financial assistance will be in the form of a vendor check written at the local level. The amount of assistance will be determined by household income, which must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, the household size, and the household need, up to the maximum benefit of \$220 per household. The eligibility guidelines are the same as with the Regular Energy Assistance Program.

Cooling Assistance will open during the summer season if funds are available. The eligibility requirements as described in the Regular Energy Assistance Program will be used for this component. There will be priority placed on the elderly, disabled and households with young children. The benefits approved will be in direct money payments to the provider of their cooling source of energy. Fans and air conditioners are not purchased from LIHEAP funds. The eligibility for cooling assistance will be reviewed to ensure benefits were not previously received during the same program period.

Weatherization activities will be furnished to approximately 1,032 low-income households. The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority's Division of Energy Resources currently administers the State Weatherization Program. The low-cost residential weatherization activities will provide direct energy-conserving improvements to the homes of low-income citizens to reduce long term home energy consumption. Priority of services, which include installing ceiling insulation, windows, caulking and weather-stripping is given to the elderly and disabled. Local Weatherization assistance services are provided by local nonprofit organizations. The cost for weatherization of each dwelling must not exceed \$2,664. To be eligible, the household's total income must be at or below 150% of poverty level.